

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Title

The title of the application has been replaced with a new title as requested in the Office Action.

Drawings

Figures 1, 2, and 5 have been labeled "Prior Art" as requested in the Office Action.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kuba et al. (U.S. Patent 5,806,072, hereinafter Kuba). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In the present invention, an area on a disk is ensured for a directory and directories belonging to the directory within the area are ensured by the directory. For example, a directory 1 is defined with respect to an actual area on a disk (see Figure 6). Files created under the directory 1 (e.g., FILE 1 and FILE 2) are written within the area. Directories under directory 1 (e.g., DIR3 and DIR4) are defined within the area ensured for directory 1 (see Figure 7). Hierarchical layers of

directories are thus organized by defining directories in an area ensuring mode (Specification at page 12, lines 6-8). The present invention is an improvement over conventional hierarchical structures, where directories are conceptual frameworks, not pre-defined areas on a disk (e.g., Figure 5).

Kuba discloses a memory card for an electronic still camera that is compatible with personal computers in that it encompasses a DOS hierarchical directory structure, having clusters as unit memory areas. A subdirectory is created by designating a start cluster No. of the storage location of the subdirectory, in a directory entry for the subdirectory (Fig. 7; column 15, lines 36-39). Files stored within the subdirectory would in turn designate a start cluster No. of the storage location of the file, in a directory entry for the file. Thus, Kuba appears to teach a conceptual framework for hierarchical directories and files, comparable to that shown in Figure 1 of the present application (MS-DOS conventional FAT system).

Applicant submits that Kuba fails to teach at least pre-defining an area on a disk medium as a directory and recording files and directories within the area defined as the directory. In order to clarify this distinction, Applicant has amended claim 1 to state, "pre-defining" instead of ensured. Accordingly, at least for this reason, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 103

Claims 6 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuba et al. in view of Walker (U.S. Patent 6,134,586). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Office Action relies on Walker for teaching specifying a maximal allowable time of seeking data in the areas ensured on the disk medium as recited in claim 6, as well as limitations recited in claim 7. However, Walker also does not teach or suggest pre-defining an area on a disk medium as a directory and recording files and directories within the area. Thus, Applicant submits that Walker does not make up for the deficiency in Kuba. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection fails to establish *prima facie* obviousness for claims 6 and 7, and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

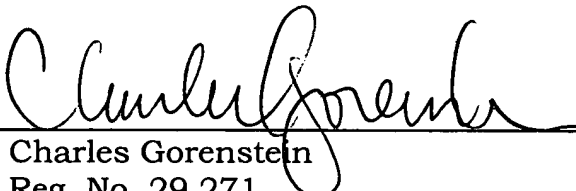
CONCLUSION

All objections and rejections raised in the Office Action having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and such allowance is respectfully solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222), to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH &, BIRCH, LLP

By: 
Charles Gorenstein
Reg. No. 29,271

RWD
CG:RWD:kmr
(703) 205-8000
1907-0205P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
703-205-8000

Attachment(s): Three (3) sheets of drawing replacement sheets